

Message Text

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ORIGIN ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 INSE-00 SCA-01

DHA-02 /041 R

DRAFTED BY D/HA/ORM:JCHAVCHAVADZE:CML

APPROVED BY D/HA - JLCARLIN

D/HA - AADAMS

INS/CO - DPOWELL

SCA - AANTIPPAS

NEA/ARN - MMAUGHAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: ARMENIAN/ASSYRIAN REFUGEE PROGRAM - OPERATION
SAFEHAVEN

REF: (A) GENEVA 5434; (B) GENEVA 3863; (C) GENEVA 5290

1. FOR PURPOSES OF BOTH FISCAL AND PROGRAM PLANNING THE
DEPARTMENT AND INS/CO HAVE CONSISTENTLY USED THE FIGURE
2730 AS THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS IN THE ASSYRIAN
ARMENIAN SAFEHAVEN OPERATION. THIS FIGURE IS BASED ON
ICEM STATISTICS OF THOSE REFUGEES FLOWN FROM BEIRUT TO
ATHENS DURING PERIOD MARCH 7 - APRIL 9, 1976.

2. OF THESE 2730, A TOTAL OF 2341 WERE ACCEPTED FOR U.S.

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IMMIGRATION AND HAD ARRIVED IN THE U.S. AS OF JUNE 30,

1976. THUS 389 REMAIN IN ATHENS OUT OF THE ORIGINAL TOTAL. THEY ARE EITHER UNDERGOING INS REVIEW OR MEDICAL CLEARANCE FOR IMMIGRATION TO THE U.S., OR THEY ARE AWAITING THIRD COUNTRY RESETTLEMENT.

3. PROJECTED COSTS UP TO JUNE 30, 1976 WERE INCLUDED IN THE BUDGET SUBMITTED MAY 19, 1976 BY UNHCR (REFTEL B) WHICH SHOWED THAT TOTAL COST OF CARE AND MAINTENANCE AMOUNTED TO 1,016,175 DOLS. TOWARD THAT AMOUNT, THE

DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTING FUNDS THROUGH A PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION AMOUNTING TO 910,000 DOLS. TO REPLENISH UNHCR'S EMERGENCY FUND.

4. 910,000 DOLS. WAS BASED ON THE PREMISE THAT FOR THIS EMERGENCY PROGRAM THE U.S. WOULD COVER COST OF CARE AND MAINTENANCE IN GREECE FOR THOSE REFUGEES ACCEPTED FOR PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT IN THE U.S., I.E. THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY ARRIVED IN THE U.S. PLUS ANY ADDITIONAL CASES WHICH MAY NOW BE UNDER REVIEW.

5. THE DEPARTMENT FEELS STRONGLY THAT THE U.S. HAS BEEN MOST GENEROUS IN ACCEPTING 2341 OF THE TOTAL 2730 FOR PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT IN THE U.S. WHILE THE REVIEW PROCESS IS STILL UNDERWAY, STATUTORY LIMITATIONS AND NON-AVAILABILITY OF CONDITIONAL ENTRY AND NON-PREFERENCE VISA NUMBERS MAKE IT APPEAR UNLIKELY THAT MORE THAN A FEW NEGATIVE INS FINDINGS WILL BE REVERSED. SIMILARLY, PROVIDING OUR P.D. FOR 910,000 DOLS. IS APPROVED, WE FEEL THAT THIS WILL REPRESENT A VERY GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION TOWARD THE CARE AND MAINTENANCE PHASE OF OPERATION SAFEHAVEN.

6. DRAWING ON THE ABOVE, MISSION SHOULD EMPHASIZE TO UNHCR THAT THIS WILL BE OUR TOTAL RESPONSE TO THE SAFEHAVEN OPERATION. ACCORDINGLY, UNHCR SHOULD AGAIN BE ADVISED TO TURN TO OTHER MEMBERS OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY FOR RESETTLEMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THOSE REFUGEES IN ATHENS NOT ACCEPTED BY U.S., AND FOR FUNDS TO MAINTAIN THOSE REFUGEES REMAINING IN ATHENS WHILE THEY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ARE AWAITING RESETTLEMENT ELSEWHERE. KISSINGER

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